DEMOCRATIC
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GERMAN TROOPS IN FRANCE AGAIN?

Bonn Document Foreshadows New Occupation

West German government circles are making official plans for a renewed German military occupation of parts of eastern France, the Paris newspaper "Combat" disclosed on July 3rd.

The newspaper published the full text of a confidential letter from West German Defence Minister Franz-Josef Strauss to General Heusinger, Inspector General of the West German Wehrmacht, ordering him to make detailed plans for stationing German troops over a large area of eastern France, with the nominal duty of guarding large supply dumps to be established there. The roads leading from the supply dumps to the German frontier must also fall "in the sphere of German responsibility", the letter stated.

The West German Wehrmacht units stationed in France "must enjoy extra-territorial privileges", the Defence Minister's letter stated.

The Paris newspaper also published a facsimile of the letter in the original German, with Defence Minister Strauss's signature, stating: "We have serious grounds for believing in the authenticity of this letter."

A full English translation of this letter, as printed in "Combat" is published on page 107 of this issue. Up to the date of publication the West German Government had made no attempt to deny its authenticity.

The area Metz-Luxembourg—Reims—Chalons, in which it is planned to station West German occupation troops with extra-territorial rights is a territory of about 2,500 square miles — larger than Kent and Surrey combined.

German occupation troops have previously been situated in this area three times in the past ninety years: first in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870—71, then during the First World War 1914—18, and thirdly during the Second World War from 1940 to 1944.

NAZI JUDGES

"Come and See the Full Files" Says E. German Government

Story on next page

T. U. s Terrorised

Solders of the new West German Wehrmacht recently smashed up a beer hall in Munster, a garrison town, because the owner had rented a room for trade union meetings. This was disclosed at the annual conference of the West German Chemical Workers Union in Hamburg on July 9th by delegate Helmut Schlueter, who added: "In some beer halls in Munster trade union members do not dare to go for a drink alone, since if they do they get beaten up by the soldiers. Night for night we can see the soldiers marching through the streets singing the nazi 'Horst Wessel' song."

"Peaceful Atom" Bill Defeated

A bill which would have limited atomic research in West Germany to purely peaceful purposes was defeated in the West German Parliament on July 2nd.

The bill, which took the form of a constitutional amendment, laid down specifically that it dealt with the "production and use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes". A group of Christian Democratic deputies, who had previously supported the bill, withdrew their support after party leaders had ruled that this phrase might interfere with the equipment of the West German Wehrmacht with atomic weapons. As a result of their abstention, the necessary majority for a constitutional amendment was not reached.

This "atom-bomb" group, reportedly led by Chancellor Adenauer, also suggested that passage of the bill would make it difficult for West Germany to manufacture atomic arms at some future date. Opposition also came from influential industrial-

(cont. on next page)

"Inspect Our Files on Nazi Judges"

East German Offer to British Government

Nazi files proving the war criminal activities of scores of leading West German legal figures are open to inspection by the British Government, an official East German spokesman declared on July 11th.

The offer to open the files followed a statement in the House of Commons by Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd that the British Government was "interested in this matter" and would follow it up.

The question was raised in the House of Commons July 10th by Sydney Silverman, Labour M. P. for Nelson and Colne. He asked the Foreign Secretary whether he was aware that contrary to the Potsdam Agreements "about 200 persons employed as judges or public prosecutors (in West Germany) were personally concerned as judges in the infliction of death and other heavy sentences for offences against the Nuremberg and other nazi laws". He further asked what consultations the Foreign Secretary had had about the matter with the other parties to the Potsdam Agreements, and what representations he had made to the German Federal Government.

Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd replied: "I am aware that allegations of this nature have been made recently, apparently originating in East Germany. I am informed that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has already initiated an investigation into these allegations. In the circumstances I think it would be inappropriate for me to comment further at this stage."

Mr Silverman asked him to keep the matter in mind and report to the House of Commons when he had seen the result of the investigation. Mr Lloyd replied: "Since May 5th 1955, the appointment of judges is a matter falling within the full jurisdiction of the Federal German Government and the Governments of the German Laender. Nevertheless, I can assure you that we retain an interest in this matter and that we shall follow it up."

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The editor writes: GERMAN REPORT has reported this parliamentary question and answer so fully since it was entirely suppressed by the London daily press. No single London morning paper, not even the "Times" which normally gives a full parliamentary report, even mentioned Mr Silverman's question, or Mr Selwyn Lloyd's reply. A similar wall of silence was encountered by the original documented disclosures about the employment in West German of hundreds of former nazi judges, including wanted war criminals, published by the Committee for German Unity in East Berlin on May 23rd and June 15th.

The victims of these nazi murderers, now acting as judges and public prosecutors in West Germany, included hundreds of Czechs, Poles, Frenchmen, Russians, and Germans during the Second World War. One British citizen, John Lennox, is named in the documents available for inspection in Berlin. He was sentenced to death by a nazi special court on November 11th 1943 — Armistice Day — and probably executed a few days later, though no record of his execution has yet been found. The man mainly responsible for John Lennox's death was a certain Dr Liebau, today Senior Public Prosecutor in the District Court of Lueneburg, in the British Zone of West Germany. During the nazi period Dr Liebau was "Official for Special Courts" in Hitler's Ministry of Justice, and prepared the prosecution case against John Lennox.

Full documentary evidence, in English, on more than 150 such nazi jurists active today in West Germany is now available, and we shall be glad to send copies to any reader interested. We appeal to readers in Britain to take this matter up with their M. P.s, and to see that Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd really does "follow it up" as he promised to do in the House of Commons on July 10th.)

U-Boats Again

The nazi naval officers who command the new West German navy have got their first u-boat again. The u-boat, a 250 ton nazi vessel which was sunk at the end of the war and has now been refitted, was re-launched on July 1st.

Soldier's Statement

A former corporal of the West German Wehrmacht, now in the German Democratic Republic, has addressed an open letter to British and American soldiers serving in West Germany. The letter was transmitted by the English-language service of the East German radio on July 6th.

In his letter the soldier, Corporal Dieter Geske, stated: "I saw that the leading positions in the Federal Army are held by old-style German militarists, the same people against whom you fought in the last world war, when your people were killed in action to bring freedom to the German people. Today these people intend to start a new world war on an atomic basis... I myself do not want to fight against my own brothers and sisters in the eastern part of Germany. That is why I came over here."

"Peaceful Atom" Bill Defeated

(cont. from preceding page)

ists who feared that radiation-security precautions outlined in the bill would interfere with their profits.

Attacking the "atom-bomb" group in a parliamentary speech, Social Democratic leader Wilhelm Mellies said: "The voting on this bill has shown clearly the motives of those members of the Christian Democratic Union who abstain from voting. The suggestion from their ranks that this constitutional amendment could harm NATO proves that they are obviously not only ready to equip the Federal Army with atomic weapons, but that they are also intent on keeping open the chance of manufacturing atomic weapons. It is obvious that industrial interests have also been at work. Some people obviously do not like the conditions set for licencing atomic work. For these people the lust for profits is more important than the safety of the population. The non-acceptance of this constitutional amendment means that it is impossible for any regulations on radiation-protection to be passed."

"Ruin"-Adenauer

West German Chancellor Adenauer has told West German voters that an election victory for the Social Democratic Party — equivalent to the British Labour Party — would mean "Germany's ruin" and that it would lead to Communism.

Chancellor Adenauer made his announcement at an election rally of the Christian Democratic Union in Nuremberg on July 7th. In the course of his speech he stated: "We are determined that the Social Democratic Party should never be allowed to come to power. Please believe that our determination does not rise from party-political hatred. That is not the reason. We are absolutely determined since we believe that a victory for the Social Democrats would mean Germany's ruin."

He repeated his words at a press conference in Bonn on July 12th, and added: "The foreign policy ideas of the Social Democrats would lead us to Communism".

As a result of Adenauer's attack, Social Democratic leaders of several provincial governments refused to attend an official dinner in Bonn on July 11th which the Chancellor was guest of honour. On July 12th the Central Board of the Social Democratic Party passed a resolution called upon the West German population "to turn their back on a man who, in his unlimited desire for sole power and his hate for Social Democracy, has lost all sense of balance, all respect for an honest difference of opinion, and all sense of a worthy expression of political differences."

The resolution continued: "The allegation made by the Chancellor that a Social Democratic victory would mean Germany's ruin is not only false, but also a studied insult to many millions of Germans . . . We appeal to all citizens to see to it that freedom in Germany is not endangered once again by the individual rule of one party and one man."

Twice as Many Books

Twice as many books per head are published and sold in the German Democratic Republic as in West Germany, according to official statistics for 1955 now available.

In that year the Democratic Republic published 5.6 books per head of the population, compared to 2.6 books per head in West Germany. Book production in East Germany is now almost as high as in Britain, which published 5.72 book per head of the population.

German Troops For France — Bonn Letter

FEDERAL DEFENCE MINISTRY

105 Argelanderstrasse
Bonn
Telephone 20161
April 12 1957

Lieutenant General Heusinger
Inspector General of the Federal Army

I have been confidentially informed by Lieutenant General Speidel, COMLANDCENT (Commander, Land Forces, Central Sector, ed.) that plans are at present being made to choose territories in eastern France as the site for the main supply bases of the Federal Army: he intends to submit these plans in the near future to General Norstad, SACEUR (Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, ed.).

In accordance with the practice followed by other NATO powers of establishing their main supply bases in eastern France or in Belgium, and to maintain only small size distribution points in the territory of the Federal Republic – with the exception of the Rhine-Palatine area – and in view of the small depth of territory possessed by the Federal Republic, we should take similar measures, in order to ensure regular supplies for the Federal Army at the decisive moment. We should envisage for such bases an area delimited by the line Metz–Luxembourg–Reims–Chalons, north of the American Advance Section dumps in the area Nancy–Metz–Vitry-le-Francois.

I hereby request you to prepare for General Speidel an appropriate memorandum which can serve as the basis for the first confidential discussions with General Norstad, SACEUR, before July 1st.

This memorandum should include roughly the following points:

1. The explanation of the necessity and the advantages of establishing the main supply bases for the Federal Army in the area envisaged, in view of modern conditions of warfare.

2. The explanation of the advantages and absolute necessity of placing the supply bases, and the roads leading from the bases to Germany, in the sphere of German responsibility, both in time of war and at the present time: and the absolute necessity of guarding the bases by means of the stationing of units of the Federal Army there: for this purpose these units must enjoy extraterritorial privileges similar to those enjoyed by the American troops in France, and by the French troops stationed in the Federal Republic.

3. A rough appraisal of the cost of this project, together with an estimate of the sum which the Federal Government would be ready to pay, and of the sum to be borne by the NATO Infrastructure Programme.

4. A request for friendly American support for this plan both in NATO and vis-à-vis the French Government.

(signed)
Strauss.

Millions for Nazi Pensions

The West German Parliament has voted 300 million marks (nearly £ 30 million) to increase the pensions of nazi officials and professional soldiers. The money will go to raise the pensions of 300,000 persons who were "forced to leave the public service after 1945". In plain language this means civil servants who were sacked because of their bad nazi records, together with various categories of professional soldiers.

As a result of opposition from the Social Democratic Party a further motion to grant full pensions to former members of the black-uniformed SS was rejected by parliament. Political observers forecast that a new bill to grant pensions to SS men will be introduced in the autumn.

BEAUTIFUL COKE-WORKS

By Phyllis Rosner

It was nearly dusk when we approached the Lauchhammer coke works — one of the wonders of the German Democratic Republic, for it is the only factory in the world producing coke from soft coal.

One of the results of the division of Germany is that almost all hard coal (from which the best coke is made) is in West Germany, whereas the German Democratic Republic has huge soft coal deposits.

Until the resourceful brains of the Republic set to work nobody had ever attempted to convert soft coal into coke, but in Lauchhammer this has been done successfully, thanks mainly to Professors Erich Hammler and Georg Bilkenroth.

Lauchhammer coke is rather costly to produce and cannot yet be used for normal shaft furnaces in steel works; but it can be used in the special low-shaft furnaces designed here for East German steel works. And it is especially suitable for chemical works, since its water content is ten times less than that of anthracite coke.

Lauchhammer never sleeps. Every twenty-four hours the works swallows 5,000 tons of brown coal from which 2,000 tons of coke are produced for the nearby Riesa steel works and the chemical factories.

In the process a number of valuable by-products emerge, among them tar, oil and gas. The heat released in the cooling process is converted into steam and then again into power sufficient to run the entire Lauchhammer works. The gas is used, among other things, for Leipzig's street lighting and domestic needs.

In the still of that summer evening there was something very beautiful about Lauchhammer — the huge pipes twisting round each other looking for all the world like human limbs. The blazing withe-hot coal briquettes being jettisoned into the coolers had a certain poetry about them.

For a layman it was fascinating to compare a soft coal briquette being fed in an unending stream into the huge ovens with the finished product — a piece of coke about a quarter of its original size 36 hours before.

Taking us — a small party of foreign journalists including an American and a Japanese — around the works was 27-year-old Werner Dubski, a typical product of the new Germany, not a bit fussy or hurried, and prepared to answer all our questions and to let us ask the few workers we saw as much as we liked.

Dubski is in charge of one of the five departments of the works and is responsible for twelve ovens, stretching over half a kilometre of land. Only seven years ago he had been working as an electrician in a gas works. Then he was sent to university and in 1955 he came to Lauchhammer, barely three years in existence, and quickly rose to his present important post.

We never saw more than two or three workers at a time, even in the huge compression department. The work is being increasingly mechanised, not only to save labour, but also to relieve workers from having to work at very high temperatures.

There are a number of women working at Lauchhammer and the amenities provided for them as well as for the men are firstclass. Of course there is an splendid kindergarten and polyclinic, such as you find in all larger East German factories. There are also showers, Turkish baths and rest-rooms. We were particularly taken with the women's showers, designed so that the spray starts about shoulder level so as not to spoil the hair style.

As we were leaving Lauchhammer Dubski told us about the many other visitors he had talked to — among them a delegation from the United Nations Economic Commission. They also recognised the unique character of this works. It may one day turn out to be even more sensational, if it succeeds in producing coke suitable for use in ordinary furnaces.

Socialist Unity Party Greets Moscow Changes

The Politburo of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany warmly welcomed on July 4th the decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union with regard to the "anti-party group of Malenkov, Kaganovitch and Molotov".

The official statement issued by the Politburo of the Socialiat Unity Party stated: "We welcome without reservation the decisions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and defend these decisions with all force and all consequences ... The slanderous campaign against Comrade Krushchov, First Secretary of the Central Committee, is in practice an attack on the leading role of the Party and against the carrying out of the decisions of the 20th Party Congress ..."

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GERMANY FOR BEGINNERS

Polish M.P. Sums-Up on Divided Country

By Edmund Osmanczyk, Member of the Polish Sejm

Nearly eight years ago, in autumn 1949, the German Democratic Republic was born, a few weeks after the formation of the Federal Republic in West Germany.

The German Democratic Republic has an area of about 41,000 square miles, and a population of about 18 million; the German Federal Republic has an area of 96,000 square miles, and a population of over 50 million.

Both states chose as their flag the black-red-gold standard of the democratic Germany of 1848. The German Democratic Republic took this step on the day of its formation; the Federal Republic later, after a debate in Parliament. The national anthems of the two states are different: the Democratic Republic chose a new anthem "Risen from the ruins", while the Federal Republic retained the old anthem "Deutschland ueber Alles".

All socialist states with the exception of Yugoslavia have assumed diplomatic relations with the Democratic Republic, and all capitalist countries have diplomatic relations with the Federal Republic. The only state which maintains diplomatic relations with both German states is the USSR. The majority of countries in both east and west have trade relations to a greater or lesser degree with both German states.

The governments of the Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic maintain no official relations with each other, except in those sectors where they are forced to have normal trade or other relations as a result of the immediate neigbourhood of the two German states in one country. Very many proposals have been made by the government of the Democratic Republic for a normalisation of the relations between the two states, but these have all been rejected on principle by the government of the Federal Republic. Until recently, this rejection on principle had the almost unconditional support of all important political bodies in the Federal Republic, but lately there have been an increasing number of serious voices in the Federal Republic demanding the opening of relations with the government of the Democratic Republic.

When the two German states were formed, occupation troops were stationed on their territories; the status of these troops was later changed. However, American, British and French occupation troops are still stationed on the territory of the Federal Republic, and Soviet troops are stationed in the German Democratic Republic. In the past year or two these armed forces have been added to by the armed forces of the two German states. In the Federal Republic the army is called "Federal Army", and in the Democratic Republic it is called "National People's Army". The first is affiliated to NATO, and the latter to the Warsaw Pact.

In the economic field, the Federal Republic is affiliated to the West European Economic Organisation, and the Democratic Republic to the Economic Council for Mutual Aid of the socialist countries.

In the economic life of the western world the Federal Republic occupies the leading position, with the exception of the United States. It has already overtaken Britain and France in various fields: in steel production for instance, the Federal Republic has reached the figure of 21.3 million tons, compared with 20.2 million tons in Britain and 12.6 million tons in France. In other fields the Federal Republic s forging ahead, for instance in electric energy, where the Federal Republic produced 76.5 thousand million k'lowatts, Britain 82.1, and France 49.6 (All figures for 1955).

In the economic life of the eastern world the Democratic Republic plays an important role, and in well ahead of China, Poland and Czechoslovakia in many fields. In electric energy, Democratic Germany produces 28.7 thousand million kilowatts, China 12.5, Poland 17.8, Czechoslovakia 15.3. The Democratic Republic is not leading in steel production, however: here the figures are Democratic Germany 2.5 million tons, China 2.9, Poland 4.4, and Czechoslovakia 4.5. (All figures for 1955).

I must apologise for recalling these facts and figures, which are generally known, but I believe that this will help in the understanding of what I have learnt about the Democratic Republic, which I visited in June 1957 on the occasion of the visit to Berlin made by Wladyslaw Gomulka and Jozef Cyrankiewicz.

The German Democratic Republic, after a life of nearly eight years, is a clearly defined state, of the socialist type. The social form of the Democratic Republic is determined by this type. This is helped by the class composition of the Democratic Republic, which differs from that of the Federal Republic as a result of the land reform and the nationalisation of industry and the banks, carried out in 1945—46 which was followed by a migration of the junkers and the big and medium capitalists to the Federal Republic. The class character of the Democratic Republic is decisively determined today by the workers and peasants, together with the intelligentsia (professional people, scientists, artists) the middle class (mainly craftsmen and small merchants) and the remains of the capitalist element (private enterprises and merchants).

II.

The formation of the socialist society in the course of the construction of socialism in the Democratic Republic has been hampered by the uninterrupted counter-offensive of capitalism, launched from West Berlin and the Federal Republic.

In the period between the two world wars the Germans introduced to international politics the idea of the "Grenzkampf" (frontier struggle), which was aimed at disturbing relations between the peoples in the frontier districts. Since today there remain in Europe no frontier problems which are able seriously to disturb the relations between neighbours, the only memory of the "Grenzkampf" remains in the poisoned atmosphere in the relations between the Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic, the two parts of one nation, the two states with differing social systems which exist within one country.

Before the Second World War the Danes living in the southern part of Schleswig Holstein, one of the areas of the "Grenzkampf", opposed the

policy of Germanisation, and took as their slogan "Front and Bridge": this slogan expressed the idea that it was the task of the Danish minority to hold the front against Germanisation, but at the same time to create a bridge to the German people for the peaceful co-existence of the two nations, since it is not sufficient to resist a neighbour; . is necessary to live together with him. since he is and will remain a neighbour.

All comparisons tend to be faulty, but the relations between the Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic could besaid to be foundedon t' principle "Front and Bridge". The tragedy of this principle in the concrete case of Germany today is obvious in the fact that in this case the word "Front" has not only a political but also a military meaning, and a military meaning which is not only of inner-German importance, but which makes itself felt far beyond the German frontiers· much the same is true for the word "Bridge".

The Democratic Republic is undoubtedly in a worse position than the Federal Republic, since it is smaller in area and population. In addition it possesses less raw materials and heavy industry, which means that it is economically in a worse position, and cannot compete with the great financial means of the Federal Republic. The standard of living in Democratic Germany is one of the highest in the socialist countries, but it is below that of the Federal Republic, where the living standard is one of the highest amongst all the capitalist countries. This discrepancy will continue for a long time; it must continue until hard work has compensated for the unequal start.

But these existing economic differences (which are to a certain extent compensated for by various socialist values, which, in addition, can only come in to full effect during the process of "catching up") naturally lead to political differences. This is particularly true for a state which does not border upon capitalist Spain or capitalist Greece, but upon the Federal Republic, a state with the same language and the same culture.

This is the reason for the considerable emigration seen in the past few years from the Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic, and also the re-emigration from the Federal Republic to the Democratic Republic. This is also the reason for the attempts to organise unrest, as in June 1953 (although other elements were at work here too).

It is necessary to emphasise however that the pressure exerted by the Federal Republic on the Democratic Republic in the style of the "Grenzkampf" can bring no political result other than the deepening of the partitioning of Germany, and the deepening of the cleft between the Germans.

The state and class basis of the German Democratic Republic becomes more and more stablised from year to year, and a similar development is observable in the membership of the Democratic Republic in the great united family of socialist countries.

III.

The construction of socialism in the particular conditions ruling in Democratic Germany demands its own forms and methods. Democratic Germany's path to socialism runs between the trenches of the "Front" and the piers of the "Bridge". The difficulty is to discover the right proportion between the necessities of the "Front" and the needs of the "Bridge". The Democratic Republic realises this dilemma, and I do not believe that it can be solved so quickly.

I personally formed the impression that the atmosphere of the "Front" is predominant, which results in the visible use of elastic forms and methods in the building of socialism. I learned from German acquaintances and friends, however, that this necessity of being armoured against outside attack resulted in a slow, step-by-step development in the process of internal democratisation. This appears to me to be natural and unavoidable in the general process of democratisation in the socialist countries, to which the Democratic Republic belongs. However, this process in the Democratic Republic depends more than in other countries upon outside factors, particularly upon the international situation, which affects for instance the possibilities of demilitarisation, of the creation of a neutral zone in central Europe, or the lessening or increasing of the "Grenzkampf" waged from West Berlin and the Federal Republic.

I do not feel entitled to pass judgment on the advantages or weaknesses of the path to socialism taken by the Democratic Republic, and I do not believe that this is necessary in order to understand the general situation of the Democratic Republic, and its place in the field of international politics. This general situation, which I am attempting to outline here, leads to the following conclusions:

The bad, very bad, relations with the western neighbour, which is brother as well as neighbour, since it is the **German** Federal Republic, throw a disquietening shadow over the whole of Germany. This leads to vigilance, to unnatural limitations in relations between people who live in one homeland divided by a wall of mistrust.

The partitioning of Germany has deepened in the past few years, and continues visibly to deepen. The latest moves of the government of the Federal Republic such as the inclusion of the Federal Republic in the West European Common Market and Euratom, and finally the preparations for the equipment of the Federal Army with atomic weapons, lead in practice to the creation of a final breach between West and East Germany. It is not necessary to see that the chance of reunification may soon be finally destroyed by the entry of the Federal Republic into the community of West European states. Then there will only remain the possibility of building a bridge across this chasm, a mutual bridge between two German states with two differing economic and social systems. Then it will be necessary to hold long-drawn-out negotiations between two German governments to find the ways and means of achieving some higher form of unity between two such widely differing German states.

(There is naturally another road: the reunification of Germany by force. ce. But this is an absurd way, since it would result in the unification of all Germans in a frightful thermo-nuclear crematorium.)

The 50 million Germans in the Federal Republic, as the last few years have shown, have not been capable of preventing the integration of West Germany in the West European community, and are not capable of preventing a deepening of the cleft which separates them from the 18 million Germans in the Democratic Republic who are building themselves a socialist future. The only thing which the Germans in the Federal Republic can do at present, and what an ever-increasing number of them are doing, is to demand that a start be made with the construction of a direct bridge between the two German states. The government of the Democratic Republic and the people of the Democratic Republic have expressed their readiness for such a step for a long time past. The later this direct contact between these two actually existing German states begins, the more difficult it will be to find the right forms for preserving the natural community of the whole German people between the Oder, the Elbe and the Rhine.

For the citizens of the Democratic Republic who observe the growing split realistically, it is obvious that their future is linked with the future of Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union and People's China, with the

future of all the socialist countries. Seen in historic perspective, they are already today preparing for the friendship of the entire German people with these lands.

IV.

It was under such circumstances that the discussions were held in East Berlin on June 18th—20th between the government and party delegations of Democratic Germany and Poland. The most important aspect of these discussions was naturally the question of Polish-German relations, which are so important for peace in Europe.

It could be seen that the consistent peace policy of the government of the German Democratic Republic and Poland had resulted in good-neighbourly relations between the two states, and that these relations are steadily developing. The common political interests, the state interests of Poland and Democratic Germany, the cause of socialism espoused by the Polish United Workers Party and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany all provide a foundation for good neighbourly relations; this is a thousand times more important than all the differences existing between two states building socialism under differing conditions and against a different historial and geo-political background. It is no secret that these differences appeared clearly in the past year, and were reflected in the press and the radio of the German Democratic Republic and Poland. It is necessary to add immediately that the appearance of these differences, arising from the differing paths to socialism, could not disrupt the basic good neigbourly relations between the two countries...

("Przeglad Kulturalny", Warsaw, June 26th 1957)

British M.P. Re-tours East Germany

Mr Donnelly Finds Many Improvements, Has Some Criticisms

Desmond Donnelly, Labour M. P. for Pemoroke, first visited the German Democratic Republic in 1954. In June this year he made a second tour of Republic, and wrote a report on his impressions under the title "East German Easement" in the London "Spectator" on July 5th.

He found that in very many ways conditions had improved in the past few years, but said that he received an impression of "apatny" and discovered a "yearning for free discussion". Here are some passages from his "Spectator" article:

"Returning after my previous visit three years ago, and making almost the same tour in my car, I discovered that much of the crusading zeal had gone out of the East German Communists. The glistening and hearty atmosphere so reminiscent of a mixture of Messrs. Butlin and Buchman was missing. Instead there was reduced political tension, a marked increase in material living standards and fewer people carrying guns — something that had always alarmed me intensely because of the careless way in which these weapons were brandished in my presence.

"The East German economy has made significant advances since my previous visit. The engineering industry has expanded substanially. The countryside looked less unhealthy that it was — in the villages I saw no more of those 'Norm' target boards that used to be found on the roadside wherever one went. The range and quality of consumer goods have changed out of all recognition. Food rationing for certain basic commodities remains; for meats, fats and sugar. Here and there shortages arise because of bureaucracy in the distributive sections of the food trade, but certainly there was no indication of any hardship arising out of food shortages. The two-price Communist system of rations still operates — a cheap, subsidised price for a limited ration and a much higher price for the same commodity off the ration.

"The cafés and restaurants were crowded. I went into several of different kinds and of different price levels. The best restaurants appeared to be State-owned, and, although they were expensive, they were extremely good and compared favourably with anything in West Germany. Their high prices appeared to be no deterrent to trade and their clientele gave me the impression of a growing middle class. The cheaper restaurants were more generally in private ownership; in them ration cards had to be surrendered for dishes made from rationed foods — but the compensation was a much lower price. Again, they were crowded.

"There has been a substantial growth of commercial advertising. Three years ago the escort that Herr Grotewohl attached to me scorned such a bourgeois practice. 'Why do you want to advertise?' he had remarked. Last week he was most tolerant and it was the same man. 'Yes,' he said. 'This is an advertisement for scent made by a State-owned factory', as we examined little mats for standing our Pilsner glasses on in a beer cellar.

"There is also a more general tolerance of private manufacturing enterprises, provided that they are limited in size: all reminiscent of Lenin's NEP. There is a substantial development in the 'Joint Venture' system — something that I have seen operating in China (whose influence is freely acknowledged). In these 'Joint Venture' expansion and accepts a partnership ures' the State advanced capital for in proportion to the money advanced. Whilst the policy direction remains in private hands, the profits are shared. In the case of unprofitable enterprises, the State reserves the right to take over the whole business; and in practice, once the State accepts a partnership its interest is permanent. The advantages to a private owner of the 'Joint Venture' system is that his business becomes eligible for priority in raw material supplies; and his finished products find a much easier market through the national economic planning boards. I met one man in Dresden operating such a 'Joint Venture', He was manufacturing electrical products. The fact that he turned out to be an ardent Buchmanite, with a typically sound appreciation of wordly opportunity, was an added recommendation for the short-term rewards offered by the system...

"The portraits of political leaders are now more noticeable by their absence, whereas on my last visit, Messrs. Ulbricht and Grotewohl stared at me in my hotel bedroom wherever I went...

"Thus the conclusion to be drawn from this reassessment of the East German situation is that whilst there is a very gradual easement — loosening is too strong a word — there is no visible sign of any repetition of June 17, 1953. Certainly I detected no appearance of the conditions that lead to another Hungary or Poland. This is partly due to the skill of the present East German Government. Its political adroitness through the last few years has been remarkable; it has carefully isolated and forestalled opposition in a manner which has not been equalled in most of the other East European countries."

GUEST NOTEBOOK

By Joan Becker

Like thousands of Berliners, we have a regular week-end retreat from the heat of the city, and this is the first year since I have lived here that we could really make full use of it.

Every Saturday afternoon I go off with my two kids to a little lake not far from Potsdam, but far enough away from Berlin to miss the biggest crowds. You can get there by bus from Potsdam or by river steamer — a lovely trip down the Havel river, across Templiner Lake and right to the far end of Schwielow Lake; but this takes at least an hour and a half, so when it's very hot we prefer to get there quickly by bus in twenty-five minutes.

Summerhouse

We dump our things in the little two-room summerhouse set in the steep wooded hillside — about a minute from the bathing beach — which we rent from Frau Koehler, a lively little old lady of seventy-two. Frau Koehler has a rambling riverside house built right into the hillside, with kitchen and storeroom in the cellar and various rooms built haphazardly on to it. She had lived with her family in Berlin until the war, but they were bombed out and by the end of the war she had thirteen people living with her here in Ferch in what had been the family's weekend cottage. Our summer-house is just another outgrowth. She has an odd collection of crockery, cutlery and bathing-wraps too, so we need never take such things with us.

Ours is a small bathing beach and it has generally been uncomfortably full on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, but this year it is somewhat better, because three new bathing beaches have been cleared along the shores of this little lake alone.

Mission Home

Schwielow Lake is altogether a delightful spot. The woods slope steeply down to the water all round it and there are a number of beautiful country houses round it — a Writers' League holiday home which you can recognise from the steamer by the three tall poplars standing on a wide sweeping lawn, a big holiday home for Berlin craftsmen in Caputh, a rest home for Evangelical Church mission workers in Ferch, and half a dozen children's holiday homes scattered round its shores.

Lazing on the beach last Sunday I watched about twenty three-year-olds who had come with their two 'aunties' from a near-by home run by the social insurance service. They were having their six weeks' preventive holiday, and I was glad to see that these aunties really believe in sun and water for their little charges. They were all quite naked — (not the aunties, of course) — and already a lovely colour. The only things which bothered them — and everybody else — were the hornets and bluebottles. This year there are practically no mosquitoes or gnats yet, because of the dry heat, but there are more hornets than I have ever seen before.

There is a raft within easy swimming distance of the beach, and this year my two — ten and eleven years old now — can swim out there without any trouble. They swim around and jump off into deep water again and again like a couple of little water rats. But they still have to learn to dive properly.

Flat Feet

They have both been swimming in a covered pool in the city all the winter and have made enormous progress. Compulsory school swimming starts in the sixth school year, but younger children who have a tendency to round shoulders or flat feet etc. get sent by the school doctor to orthopaedic exercises or for swimming lessons twice a week — free of charge of course.

There is generally a certain amount of wangling to get sent to swimming classes and not to orthopaedic exercises, though, and swimming instructors in all Berlin pools are hard at it from 7 in the morning till 2 in the afternoon instructing children only. Afternoons and evenings are for clubs and only Sunday mornings are free for ordinary mortals until we get more swimming pools built.

We eat our supper in the garden and then go for an evening walk in the woods; you can go out at the back gate and walk for miles through lovely mixed woodland. This year we have already eaten wild strawberries and wild raspberries and later on there are all sorts of mushrooms. We are now quite expert at picking out the edible varieties, but we do sometimes get a final verdict from Frau Koehler before cooking them. There are gorgeous sunsets over the lake, too.

During the heat-wave we have been bathing before breakfast, which we also eat in the garden, and then spending a long morning on the beach. But we like to leave about two in the afternoon, because by that time it is really uncomfortably full on Sundays.

Lemonade

We pack up leisurely and wander along the lake side through the woods to the "House on the Lake" for a late lunch — again in the open air. This is one of the nicest open-air restaurants I know. Most of those nearer Berlin are always so full that you generally have to wait about an hour to get some rather nondescript food. But here, although they are very busy, they always seem to have things well in hand and you can get a nice, freshly cooked meal in ten minutes or so. They don't forget the children, either, and there's always something non-alcoholic to drink. Far too many restaurants have a limitless supply of 12 per cent beer, but run out of lemonade or fruit juice at about 11 o'clock in the morning on hot days.

Steamers to Potsdam run every hour on Sundays and holidays. These have all been refurbished during the last year or two, and they now have upholstered seats inside and down below in the bar, where you can get light refreshments including, of course, the traditional "bockwurst" — hot sausage — and meat balls. But the same thing tends to happen here with the drinks; there is always plenty of beer but few non-alcoholic drinks apart from coffee.

Dust Storm

This Sunday, on the suburban train from Potsdam to Berlin, we rode through a sudden dust storm; whole streets were hidden in clouds of dust — like a yellow fog — and we just managed to get home before a really devastating dry thunderstorm which caused a great deal of damage, including collapsed buildings, several serious fires and even a few deaths in the city.

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